The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1912, at the Post-Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 13, NO. 40. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1923. WHOLE NO. 663.

LABOR OPPOSES MYTHICAL EQUALITY

It must be perfectly delightful to wander in the realms of theory, a million miles from facts, results and every-day experience.

It must be self-satisfying to be economically independent and stand aloof from the struggle of life while emphasizing an unyielding faith in "principle."

Take the proposed "equality" amendment to the federal constitution, for instance.

A group of women, who have formed a one-sex party, demand that the constitution be changed so all reference to sexes will be eliminated.

In theory this is alluring. In practice, however, the American Federation of Labor insists that the plan would destroy all women's protective legislation that has been won the past 40 years. Scores of women's organizations accept this position and oppose the amendment.

The trade unionists appeal to the common sense of citizens and ask: How can a court sustain legislation for women wage workers if the constitution declines to recognize the slightest difference of any character between the male citizen and the female citizen?

But we must have "equality," the constitution amenders insist. They point to many injustices and civil wrongs in various states that are forced on wives and mothers.

These wrongs can be righted through legislative enactment, but the "equality" folk say this process is too slow.

Besides, there is nothing sensational in campaigning out in the "provinces," where the thrills and limelight facilities are limited, as compared with the nation's capital.

What care the theorists if women's protective legislation is annulled? Shall the welfare of individuals check the irresistible march of "principle"?

What care they if the maternal functions of a woman are destroyed because she is compelled to handle 60-pound cores in an iron foundry 10 hours a day? Or that she is a tuberculosis victim in a lint-laden cotton mill?

"Principle" must triumph, saith these theorists, who would burn the house to kill the rat.

WAR PRODUCTION PROVES IMMIGRANTS NOT NEEDED

New York, Dec. 22.—"The per capita production in this country has increased decidedly during the period of reduced immigration following the outbreak of the war," said Henry Pratt Fairchild, professor of public and social economy, New York university, before an immigration conference called by business men.

The speaker quoted the secretary of Commerce Hoover in disproving the claim that more immigrants are needed in American industry.

Prof. Fairchild said that practically every scientific student of the problem is in agreement that the hope of correcting over-population by emigration is a complete illusion under modern conditions.

"The forces of increase are constantly pressing so hard upon the means of subsistence that the gaps left by emigration are quickly filled up by increases in the birth rate or decreases in the death rate and the size of the population remains the same," he said.

"We are under no obligation to attempt to relieve European conditions by immigration, for the simple reason that immigration offers no real relief. Europe must find some other means of solving her problems."

After demolishing the claims of sentimentalists, who would throw aside every barrier to immigration, Prof. Fairchild analyzed the statement that America's industries need more immigrants.

"There is little ground for believing that we are under-populated," he said. "Even if we are, the situation will be corrected by the rapid increase which we are at present experiencing, and it is emphatically a wiser policy to rely upon the natural increase of our own stock to provide the needed population, rather than to open the doors to foreign elements of uncertain value.

"Shall we encourage, on the one hand, the optimum stage, or are actually over-populated, it would be manifest folly to run the risk of importing all the evils by accessions from abroad."

Prof. Fairchild said that if a laborer does not produce more than he consumes "there is no net gain to anybody."

"If he produces more than he consumes, there is a net surplus. But this surplus does not go to the country at large, but to certain individuals. And these individuals belong, in general, to those classes which are already consuming at a rate far above the average. It is, in fact, from exactly these individuals that the real demand for additional labor comes.

"Unless the foreign laborer increases the average per capita product of the countries in general quite from his presence, and there is not the slightest reason to suppose that he does, the net result is just the reverse is clearly indicated by figures cited by Secretary Hoover."

"Any further improvements in this standard are to be secured, not by increasing this ratio, but by increasing the efficiency of the individual laborer, by enlarged use of machinery, by technical discoveries, and by other measures for improving the stage of the arts," he said.

WAR ON CENSORSHIP TO BE NATION WIDE

New York, Dec. 22.—A nation-wide fight on all kinds of censorship will be waged by allied authors, actors, publishers, musicians, motion picture producers and others who resent the growing inclination to direct the intellectual activities of people. The first attack will be directed by the national council to protect the freedom of art, literature and the press. George Creel is chairman.

"It is not only proposed censorships that will be fought, but the laws of existing censorship laws will be urged," said Mr. Creel. "It is the principle of censorship itself that we hope to crush, for the censoring of any one form of expression carries a threat of censorship for every other form of expression.

"Even were censorship less than lawless—less an attack on the dearest rights of the citizen, less of a menace to enlightenment of public opinion—it stands condemned as the fashion of its unfailing stupidity and inevitable futility. All experience proves that it does not and can not accomplish the avowed purposes, creating evils far worse than those it assumes to correct. It is an attack upon liberty, doubly dangerous because it is made in the name of morality.

"At every point the national council stands squarely in support of the law of the land. What we protest against—what we are formed to fight—are persistent and ill-considered attempts to set aside this law in favor of the bigotries of personal prejudice and attacks upon liberty masked as attacks upon license."

GOUGERS WON'T CHANGE WHEN PRICES ARE HIGH

New York, Dec. 22.—The coal industry will not purify itself as long as prices are high, declared Governor Silzer of New Jersey in an address before business men of this city.

Substantial relief can only be obtained, he said, if the federal government will act to reduce the rates in the interstate commerce commission.

"Whether or not the federal government can exercise the power of price fixing and regulation," he said, "there is no doubt that through the powers the interstate commerce commission now has, and those which could be given to it, it would be possible to eliminate the fraudulent and extortionate practices which result in high prices.

"In an industry so essential to the nation there must be a way to protect ourselves against the extortionate demands of this industry."

HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE IS INDUSTRY'S TOLL

Olympia, Wash., Dec. 22.—An average of more than one life per day in the state was the price paid in the lumbering and other extra-hazardous occupations during November, according to the state department of labor and industries. This is the largest number of accidents ever reported by the department in these occupations during November. The toll was 3,446 accidents, of which 33 were fatal. This is a 34 per cent increase in accidents reported this year over last year. The ability for this condition is "greater industrial activity."

URGE BETTER HOUSING

New York, Dec. 22.—In the hope that this city's unsanitary tenement houses may be supplanted by modern structures, with adequate provision for light, air and recreation room for children, Acting Mayor Hulbart has ordered a triple survey of conditions under which the poor of the city live.

The city official said that the tax exemption law, passed by this city, and which applies to all new buildings, has not helped the tenement dweller to any appreciable extent. It did not, he said, encourage the building of apartments of the cheaper type of tenement house. The building of a sanitary type of low rental housing is the great desideratum, he said, the acting mayor.

"Concentration of population has resulted in a type of dwelling that has encroached on needed breathing spaces. The front yard has disappeared. The back yard is rapidly becoming a rarity. Children find themselves forced into the streets, which no longer provide safety."

DEFECTIVE CAR WHEELS IS MENACE TO PUBLIC

Boston, Dec. 22.—Defective equipment on the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad endangers life, according to a letter signed and circulated by Robert Henderson, secretary-treasurer of system federation No. 17. The New Haven railroad is attempting to operate with strikebreakers, and the shopmen are calling the attention of President Coolidge, senators, congressmen and other public men to this road's equipment.

CONVICTS EXPLOITED IN WEST VIRGINIA PEN

Morgantown, W. Va., Dec. 22.—This state's record on the industrial field, with its gun men and private armies, is similar to its treatment of helpless convicts who are housed in its penitentiary at Moundsville. The system at this prison was condemned by J. Howard Holt, chairman of the committee on crime of the state bar association, which held its annual convention in this city. Mr. Holt said there are 1,545 men in Moundsville, and most of them are exploited by contractors, who secure this labor for 70 cents a day.

"Under this contract," said Mr. Holt, "each prisoner must average from 110 to 115 workmen's shirts per day. This means that one of these shirts costs from 4 to 6 cents. The material costs 36 cents, and the shirt sells for $1. It is understood that there are now more than 500 convicts working under this contract and the contractor and associates make a profit of hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly."

Mr. Holt said that the cells in this prison are five feet wide, eight feet long and seven feet high. "Into many of the cells the sun has never shone," he added. "And it is needless to say that in such limited space there is no room for exercise. In nearly every case two men are confined in each cell. With the utmost care that can be exercised by any administration these conditions breed immorality and degradation. There are only about five square feet yard space for these 1,545 men to occupy. They are crowded in the shops, in the yard, and at night in these unsanitary cells and cages. There is no time nor opportunity for privacy. Men are infected with tuberculosis. Some of them die within the walls and some of them go forth to spread the disease in the outside world.

"We regard such treatment as inhuman. Who are we, that we should treat any fellow man in this manner?"

AMNESTY IS GRANTED 31 WAR PRISONERS

Washington, Dec. 22.—President Coolidge has ended the agitation for release of federal war prisoners by granting amnesty to the remaining 31. Fines imposed are remitted.

Recently the president appointed a committee, consisting of former Secretary of War Baker, General J. G. Harbord, retired, and Bishop Charles H. Brent, to consider these cases. The committee's report was not made public, but it is claimed that General Harbord declined to join his associates in recommending that unconditional release be recommended. The president personally passed on the majority report of the committee.

Agitation for the release of these prisoners has been supported by citizens in all walks of life. The American Federation of Labor declared that further continuance of these war prisoners serves no useful purpose. And President Gompers made personal appeals and headed delegations asking release. The United States is the last country to release its war prisoners.

FAVOR STATE AWARDS

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 22.—Representatives of organized labor this state presented Governor Smith 16 suggestions for labor and social legislation. The governor indorsed the bills. Establishment of a state insurance fund as the only form of insurance for workmen's compensation and many amendments to the compensation law. An eight-hour workday and 48-hour working week for women and minors is also included. On the question of labor injunctions it is suggested that no writ be issued unless authorized by a verdict after a trial of the facts, with both parties represented and present.

GERMAN UNIONS FACE DISSOLUTION

A. F. of L. Asks Financial Aid to Save This Democratic Force

Washington, Dec. 22.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor has issued an appeal to the trade union movement and its friends and sympathizers to give financial aid to the German trade union movement. The appeal is signed on behalf of the executive council by President Gompers and Secretary Morrison.

The German trade union movement is bankrupt and union funds have been wiped out of existence by the depreciation of the mark to the point where it is worthless, the appeal states.

"Without funds trade union offices can not exist or operate; union officials must give their time to earning even a bare livelihood; communication with the movement stops; the trade union, which is essentially organized personal co-operation, disintegrates.

"If the German labor movement is not assisted in this time of dire need, the achievements of 40 years of struggle will be wiped out."

This information has been communicated to the A. F. of L. by French, Belgium and German trade unionists and by the secretaries of the International Federation of Trade Unions. Similar information has been received through individuals returning from Germany and by Samuel Gompers' son-in-law, Allen, who was in charge of the American Red Cross in Germany.

"We have a duty to help the German trade union movement maintain itself in the defensive organization against the terrific onslaughts of bolshevik propaganda which continue incessantly with the direct backing of the bolshevik machine in Moscow, the more dangerous because of its proximity," the appeal continues. "The German trade union movement has stood courageously against the bolshevik attack, but with its machinery of organization broken down, and out of business, the red effort to capture German labor as a means to furthering the program for red domination will be a much easier matter.

"From every potential, the German trade union movement is the only important organized force in Germany that can come to the defense of the Republic and defeat the monarchists. If Germany should revert to despotism a great victory sought at terrible cost would be in great part lost. It was our war aim to destroy the imperialist autocracy. We have a duty to sustain the German labor movement as a force for holding the freedom won for the German people by the American and Allied sacrifice."

Attention is called to declarations by the A. F. of L. during the war that it favored no meeting with representatives of the people of enemy countries during the war, but when victory is achieved none will be quicker to extend the fraternal hand of trade union fellowship to organized workers in all countries with which we were at war, or will do so more heartily than will the A. F. of L.

"Now is the time that American labor must make good that pledge," the appeal states.

"If the German trade union movement fails the tide of influence will be felt the world over, but when fearful consequences in central Europe. We in America would have to meet the effects of the problems of lower standards of work within competitive production centers.

"If aid is to reach Germany it must come from America for the workers of European countries are at present in a more deplorable economic condition than obtained before the war. Unemployment and actual need is all too general for them to make contribution.

"We can not in this limited space tell the entire story of the destitution of the German trade union movement, but we have set forth the principal facts as officially communicated to us. We urge the need of immediate action. A world crisis confronts us. We must help or be untrue to our ideals and our convictions. Make checks payable to Frank Morrison, secretary A. F. of L., Washington, D. C."

NEW INSURANCE PLAN BEFORE CIGAR MAKERS

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Members of the Cigar Makers' International union have completed a referendum on an insurance plan that was submitted to them by their last convention.

If a canvass of the vote shows that the proposal has been adopted arrangements will be made to reinsure members with a reliable company. The plan provides for compulsory insurance for all members to the extent of $100 funeral benefits and at the basic dues of 40 cents a week. The members may then voluntarily take, in addition to the $100, insurance in multiples of $100 up to $500 at an increase in the dues of 5 cents a week for each additional $100.

The basic dues, covering all benefits and all other activities and carrying $100 insurance, is estimated by a member takes $100 additional, or a total of $200, his dues will be 45 cents; if he takes $400 additional, or a total of $500, his dues will be 60 cents.

The plan is compulsory only as far as the $100 is concerned and voluntary after that amount. The international union, through its membership, can abandon the plan at the end of any one year.

President Perkins of the international union says that a year's experience "will enable us to see defects, if any, which we may then correct to suit the wishes of the membership at large."

HIGH COAL PRICES MEAN HIGH PROFITS

New York, Dec. 22.—The Philadelphia & Reading coal and iron company will make a profit of $3,700,000 this year, according to estimates by officials of this corporation. This is after interest charges have been paid and $1,225,000 placed in the depletion fund. Interest charges are $1,293,000 which are paid, of course, before profits are considered. The leading company is one of the largest coal producers in the country.

CEMENT TRUST "BUSTED"

New York, Dec. 22.—The cement trust is the latest to be "busted." Federal Judge Knox signed the order which provides for the dissolution of the cement manufacturers' association. The court ordered that the practice of interchanging licenses be discontinued. This interchange is known as the "open price" system, and has been outlawed by federal courts before. Under this system manufacturers record their prices in a central office for the alleged information of other business men. The practical result, however, is to have one price, and to eliminate competition. It is stated that the cement association expended $1,000,000 a year to maintain this system.

BAKERY WORKERS UNITE

Cambridge, Ohio, Dec. 22.—Bakery workers in this vicinity have organized. This is a strongly organized mining community and these workers have aided the bakery workers in their fight against the anti-union Ward baking company.

BETTER POSTAL SERVICE CALLS FOR HIGHER WAGE

New York, Dec. 22.—"This congress should give some attention to the pay of post office clerks and carriers," says the New York World, which declares that wage increases are "demanded by the good of the service as well as by decent living."

"The present maximum pay of letter carriers is $1,800 a year. This may be a living compensation in country towns, where rents and other necessary costs are relatively low. But it is inadequate in the large cities, and for New York, with its crushing expense of housing, it is grossly inadequate. How is a postal clerk or letter carrier to maintain a family in decency on such pay?

"The postmaster general recommends a more equitable adjustment of pay for carriers. This is well as far as it goes, but congress will be asked to raise the pay to $2,400 a year maximum, which more adequately meets this pressing need, and should have active consideration."

UNCLE SAM'S LOW WAGE AGAIN MADE PUBLIC

Washington, Dec. 22.—Dissatisfaction among the personnel of the coast and geodetic survey, due to inadequate pay, has caused steady demoralization and general disintegration of this department, according to the annual report of Director Jones.

While demands of the most important kind are made on this scientific branch of the government, hampering housing quarters and insufficient equipment are needed, as well as higher salaries, said the director.

LESS TUBERCULAR DEATHS

Washington, Dec. 22.—The battle against tuberculosis is being won gradually, according to statistics made public by the census bureau. It is shown that the number of deaths from this disease per 100,000 of population in the registration area of the country, comprising 85 per cent of the total inhabitants, declined from 150 in 1918 to 97.4 last year. The highest rate was that of Colorado and the lowest rate was that of the adjoining state of Nebraska. The census bureau explained that Colorado's high rate is because the climate of that state attracts those afflicted with tuberculosis.

REFUSE 10-HOUR DAY

Madison, Wis., Dec. 22.—Efforts of manufacturers and retail merchants to obtain a change in the state's work day law which would permit them a 10-hour day for five days in the week, instead of a 9-hour day with a maximum of 50 hours a week, has been refused by the state industrial commission.

The commission has power to make modifications in the women's work hours, but held that the evidence did not warrant a change.

TO INCREASE DEATH BENEFIT

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 22.—Officers of the Stove Mounters' International union have submitted to the membership a plan to increase the death benefit.

EXPLOITERS CONCEAL PROFITS BY BLAMING LABOR-FARMERS

Washington, Dec. 22.—In a speech by Congressman Huddleston on low wages and high profits in the clothing law maker showed the increased profits made this year by the 10 largest eastern roads, the four largest southern roads and the nine most prominent western roads. These profits run into the tens of millions of dollars, although facts are grossly distorted "and some deliberate lying is resorted to."

Exploiters conceal their excessive profits by blaming farmers and workers, and by their propaganda endeavor to have these two forces antagonize each other, said Mr. Huddleston.

"For instance, the freight rates are charged to high wages for railroad labor. The truth is that for the month of September, 1923, railroad labor received the smallest percentage of railroad income since 1917. Out of the dollar paid for freight, railroad labor received 43.33 cents for 1917. Labor's share has fallen 12.81 cents on each dollar since 1920, and that in another way, the railroads now have 12.81 cents more out of each dollar to apply to dividends and other purposes than they had in 1920.

"The high price of shoes is falsely attributed to high labor costs, when, in fact, the difference in labor cost between 1913 and the present is an average of less than 40 cents per pair of shoes. A pair of fine shoes could be bought in 1913 for $7.50. The labor cost then was about $2 per pair. The same shoes are now being sold at from $14 to $16, yet the labor cost is only about $1.40.

"You pay $1 for a necktie at a haberdasher's, yet the labor cost of producing the necktie is only 10 cents. For every $100 paid for constructing an average building, labor receives $56.90, while $42.50 is paid for materials and $20.13 goes for profits, overhead and so forth.

"The high price of cotton goods is blamed on 30-cent cotton, yet ordinary dress goods runs from 12 to 16 yards to the dress. It takes about a pound of cotton to make three shirts, so that the cotton cost at 30 cents a pound is only 10 cents per shirt. Yet compare the cost of shirts with before-the-war prices.

"Wheat is cheaper in 1923 but flour runs from 18 to 25 per cent higher.

"Labor should not blame the high price of bread. It takes about 5 bushels of wheat to produce one barrel of flour, so down the line, the high cost of manufactured articles and food products is due to profiteering on the part of the farmer.

"Upon sympathetic consideration of this subject there so much misinformation afloat. So industrious are the peddlers of the propaganda that the very air is saturated with false impressions as to the return which producers and workers of all kinds receive for their labor. The farmer has little idea of the fearful economic strain to which industrial workers everywhere are subjected. The latter frequently aspire to go to the farm, only to know that the hard and stinted lives of those who till the soil.

"The two points upon which there is greatest need for co-operation between farmers and wage earners are the tariff, railroads and packers. There is a desperate effort upon the part of the opposition to prevent them from coming together in either activity."

ARE LAWYERS CARELESS OF PUBLIC'S WELFARE?

New York, Dec. 22.—Because the American bar association "sat supinely by" in the Craig case, Gustavus A. Rogers, of a Wall street firm of lawyers, resigned from that organization.

Mr. Rogers charged the association with dodging the issue. He neither supported Comptroller Craig, as a lawyer unjustly convicted, nor did it unhold Judge Mayer's action.

In a letter to President Coolidge, apologizing for the association's failure to act, Mr. Rogers said: "My feeling is one of humiliation as to the conduct of my legal brethren in the matter."

In his resignation letter, Mr. Rogers declared that the indifference of lawyers to the problems of the day has cost them the high place formerly occupied in the community, and that there is "a growing tendency on the part of the public to hold the bar in disrespect."

NEW NAME FOR LONG HOURS

Boston, Dec. 15.—"Operating flexibly" is the soothing term the Boston Manufacturers' Bureau applies to the long work day in southern cotton mills.

In explaining the southern migration of New England cotton mills this financial spokesman says:

"The legal working week in the south averages nearly 60 hours than the 48 and 54-hour basis in the north, and there is little or no restrictive legislation against overtime or of a nature which prevents a big textile organization from operating flexibly."

MOLDERS DEFEAT WAGE CUT

Minneapolis, Dec. 22.—A 100 per cent organization of iron molders employed by the Minneapolis threshing machine company made it possible to defeat a wage cut of 70 cents a day. The plant had shut down for a few weeks and on opening officials announced the cut. The molders stayed away for three weeks and the order was revoked.

"PITTSBURG PLUS" HARMFUL TO WEST

Washington, Dec. 22.—"Pittsburgh plus" should be abolished. It is in violation of the law of supply and demand and is harmful to the economic steel interests of western steel centers, said William Z. Ripley, Harvard economist, before the federal trade commission.

"Pittsburgh plus" is maintained by the steel trust. Under this system, a buyer of steel at Birmingham, Ala., for the erection of an iron range in that district, would be compelled to pay, in addition to the market price for the steel, the freight rate to Birmingham from Pittsburgh, though the steel never saw Pittsburgh. This keeps the steel mills in western Pennsylvania, which are far removed from the supply of ore, and which are compelled to haul that ore close to the raw material.

This hold up has been fought for years by builders and others who object to the needless charge. The present fight is conducted by attorneys general of several western states.

Millions of dollars are taken from the people by this process, said the economist, but may harm the steel trust is given the subject.

PREMIUMS ARE BLAMED FOR HIGH COAL COSTS

Washington, Dec. 22.—Premiums that are as high as $3.25 for a ton of coal at the mine is the main cause for high coal prices, according to the federal trade commission's fifth current report on anthracite coal.

"The existence of these premiums is often the reason for unreasonably high prices are high premiums taken "by producers of a comparatively small proportion of the total anthracite output."

MORE STOCK DIVIDENDS

New York, Dec. 22.—Wall street expects the standard oil company of Kentucky to declare another 50 cent stock dividend. This will mean an additional $8,000,000 of profits ploughed back into the business. Nine years ago the company declared a 200 per cent stock dividend. This increased its capitalization to $3,000,000. In 1917 a 100 per cent stock dividend increased the capitalization to $6,000,000. Last year another 100 per cent stock dividend was issued. This, with stock subscription, increased the capitalization to $17,500,000. With the forthcoming 50 per cent stock dividend, capitalization will be $26,000,000, or an increase of $22,000,000 in nine years.

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

Washington, Dec. 22.—The United States employment service reports that in November employment increased over December in 26 of the 66 cities reporting, while 37 cities reported a decrease in employment.

WANT SHORTER WORK WEEK

Denver, Colo., Dec. 22.—Organized stationary engineers have asked employers to establish the six-day week, starting with the first of the year. Many of these workers are employed seven days a week.

RETAIL CLERKS UNITE

Marshfield, Ore., Dec. 22.—Retail clerks have organized and affiliated with the trade union movement.

WOULD REDUCE WAGES BUT FOR MINERS' UNION

Somerset, Pa., Dec. 22.—Anti-union coal owners in this county would appreciate information on how to reduce wages, and at the same time keep employes out of the Miners' union.

Wages were cut two years ago, but these operators apparently acknowledge that this made matters worse. The Miners' union gained many recruits, a strike followed, and nation-wide publicity of deplorable conditions in Somerset county resulted. The coal owners are not a unit in the wage-cutting proposal. Some of them declare the plan is too risky. Even if successful, they say, it would not result in more business. These coal owners take this position not because they love employes, but from the fear that employes will flock to the union and more publicity will be given to the evils the coal industry needs every friend possible.

NEW BAKERY TRUST

New York, Dec. 22.—Stockholders of the Ward baking company have voted to merge with the United bakeries corporation. Common stockholders will be paid $200 a share, and $100 will be paid for preferred stock. It is claimed that both concerns will profit by the exchange of stock for the Ward baking company. The latter concern is now engaged in a nation-wide war with the bakery workers because of an attempt to force individual bargaining and conduct an anti-union shop.

HUGE RAIL PROFITS

New York, Dec. 15.—Despite the miners' and shop men's strike, the Delaware & Hudson railroad will have a surplus this year of more than $5,000,000, after all charges have been met. This is one of the coal-carrying railroads.

SPIES IN INDUSTRY TO BE INVESTIGATED

Washington, Dec. 22.—To investigated private detectives and other spies in industry, the introduction of a resolution introduced in the senate by Mr. Wheeler of Montana.

The resolution declares that various court proceedings and published investigations tend to show that "a large number of private detective agencies are obtaining large sums of money from business concerns and organizations for representing movements among their employes by manufacturing scare stories of political revolution and alleged plans for the use of violence in industrial conflicts."

"These agencies and other interests connected with them," the resolution continues, "are engaged in the peaceful relationship between employers and employes, setting up a system of espionage in industry, thriving on the unrest and fear they create and spreading false rumors and scares to maintain their alleged service."

Senator Wheeler asks that the senate committee on education and labor be empowered "to conduct an inquiry into the extent of this system of industrial espionage in all its ramifications."

UNORGANIZED GIRLS HAVE WAGES REDUCED

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Dec. 22.—Unorganized girls employed in laundries, retail stores and manufactories in this city have had a practical illustration of the value of trade union help as wages were cut from $16 a week, ordered by the minimum wage board.

In some cases spokesmen for the girls were selected by the bosses. It was shown that in only one instance did a girl ask to pay for her rights, and she was a member of a trade union. The other girls were helpless because of their unorganized condition, and offered no testimony to the board that was objectionable to their employers.

FOOD COSTS GOING UP

Washington, Dec. 22.—The bureau of labor statistics reports that during the month from October 15 to November 15 last 22 cities showed increases as follows:

Rochester, 3 per cent; Chicago, Kansas City, Minneapolis, New York, Portland and Portland, Me., 2 per cent; Bridgeport, Cleveland, Dallas, Louisville, Memphis, Milwaukee, New Haven, Richmond, St. Paul, Salt Lake City, St. Louis and Scranton, 1 per cent; Indianapolis, Philadelphia and Peoria, less than one-half of 1 per cent.

These cities reported decreases: Detroit, 2 per cent; Atlanta, 1 per cent; Baltimore, Norfolk, Savannah and Charleston, S. C., less than one-half of 1 per cent.

For the year period, November 15, 1922, to November 15, 1923, all of the 28 cities showed increases. Chicago lead with 8 per cent. The lowest, 2 per cent, were Peoria, Atlanta, Dallas, Norfolk and Richmond.

OPPOSE LONGER HOURS

Washington, Dec. 22.—The National Federation of Federal Employees oppose the plan to lengthen government working hours to 5 o'clock in order to give a Saturday half holiday the year around.

President Steward of the national organization stated that this is the unanimous decision of 10 locals of the union which have taken action on the matter and reported to headquarters.

PLAN HOME FOR MINERS

Mahanoy City, Pa., Dec. 22.—Plans are being arranged for the purchase or erection of a building that will provide permanent headquarters for the United Mine Workers in the Shamokin district.